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REVIEW

Botanists of the Eucalypts. By NORMAN HALL. v + 160 pp. CSIRO, Melbourne (US distributor: ISBS, Forest Grove, OR). 1978. \$10.00.

Botanical biographies have been collected mostly according to nationality (e.g., Desmond's *Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists*), floristic region (Van Stennis-Kruseman's *Cyclopaedia of Collectors in Flora Malesiana*), or collection (Dandy's *Sloane Herbarium*). Subtitled "short biographies of people who have named eucalypts, whose names have been given to species or who have collected type material", this book is of a rarer species—a compilation of biographies of people concerned with a particular plant taxon. The biographical sketches are not limited to each person's involvement with eucalypts, and most of the approximately 400 accounts are general reviews of botanical careers. However, *Eucalyptus* specialists will find interesting details of bibliography and collecting localities in some of the accounts. Much of the information on persons still living was acquired directly from those individuals. Appended is a long list of *Eucalyptus* species with cross-references to those persons in whose biographies the plants are mentioned.

Cultivated in California in the 19th century as a source of wood for railroad ties and to dry out swampy areas, fast-growing and thirsty gums and ironbarks are now planted mostly for ornament. Other taxonomically oriented collective biographies of interest to botanists and horticulturists remain to be written.—DALE E. JOHNSON, 12283 Ranch House Road, San Diego, CA 92128.